

# THE DRYFLY

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I was looking through one of those wonderful old issues of *Nastawgan* when I came across Richard Smerdon's article on the Kitchen Fly (Spring 1985, page 20). Inasmuch as the issue was several years old, I thought the time might be right for another exposition of this most useful camping adjunct.

Rainflies and tarps just don't get any respect. They're often among the first items to be left at home to reduce pack volume or weight. After all, few of us want to concede the likelihood of a rainy trip, even by implication. Yet, for many northern canoe outings, a good rainfly can be the difference between enjoyment and endurance.

We began using a basic rectangular rainfly on ice-out fishing trips. Over the years, many hours of fly-sheltered contemplation have prompted changes to the common design that we believe improve the rainfly for canoe-tripping. Here is a description of these alterations and suggestions for setup and use of the DRYFLY.

**GENERAL DESIGN – SIZE & SHAPE** — Start with a 9X10 ft. rectangular tarp with brass grommets on the long sides and sew triangular nylon 'wings' to the short sides. Each wing adds about five feet, making the overall length about 20 ft. in the front and 10 ft. in the back. In use, the wings are pulled down to deflect wind from the side and to permit placing extra gear close to these end walls.

Two nylon web loops are sewn to the centre seams of the fly to attach a back suspension line. Two more small loops are affixed to the inside at the same place. These serve as centre guides for a clothes drying line that can be strung from small loops at the wing seams on either side.

Short tie lines are attached to the grommets at the front (top) edge of the fly. Longer, two-position tie lines are attached at the rear (bottom) edge.

**MATERIAL & WEIGHT** — The Dryfly is made of 2.2-oz. coated ripstop nylon (green of course). Including the added 'wings' it weighs less than three pounds. Accessories (lines, ties, pegs) add about a pound. The lines and stakes are carried in a small stuff sack, wrapped into the fly body. The whole package is folded to fit under the top cover of Beth's Grade VI pack. The fly is thus available for set-up without opening the inner pack closure. Also, if we're forced to pack up again in the rain, the wet fly doesn't soak the pack contents. The folded Dryfly measures about 18" X 8" X 1 1/2".

## ACCESSORIES

- (1) About eight 8-inch stakes.
- (2) 50 ft. hard-braided 3/16" nylon front suspension line.
- (3) 25 ft. ditto back suspension line.
- (4) Short and long 3/16" nylon ties at grommets.
- (5) 15 ft. of 3/16" nylon line for clothes or to extend other lines as needed.
- (6) Seam sealant and spare 3/4" nylon webbing.
- (7) Small stuff sack for stakes, sealant, etc.

**SET-UP & USE** — The Dryfly body is strung taut along a suspension line that is prepared beforehand with two small fixed loops, the first about 12 ft. from one end, and the other 10 ft. from the first. In most set-ups, the end of the suspension line closest to the first small loop is tied to a tree with a "slippery" knot, one that will untie with a tug on the loose end (a slipped clove hitch or timber hitch). The line is then stretched very tightly and secured (tautline hitch) to another tree some distance away. The location of the fly body on the line is determined by the two small loops and their position should be judged accordingly. Ties on the top corner grom-

